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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/564,290

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EXAMINER

CHEN, YUAN L

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/564,290	Applicant(s) BERNARD ET AL.	
	Examiner Yuan L. Chen	Art Unit 4193	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 July 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 23-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-22 (canceled claims 1-22) is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 23-39 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 July 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/11/06, 4/3/07</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 27 - 28 and 30 are objected to because of the following informalities: “on” in Claims 27 - 28 line 3 should be changed to –one--, “said third distribution application” in Claim 30 line 11 should be changed to –said third distribution roller--, “said inking application rollers” in Claim 30 line 18 should be changed to –said inking roller and “rollers” in Claim 30 line 19 should be changed to –roller--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 23 - 31 and 35 – 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hummel et al. (Patent No.: US 6871590).

With respect to Claim 1, Hummel et al. disclose in Fig. 4 and Column 6 Lines 12 – 25: a printing group of a printing press comprising:

a forme cylinder (2) supported for rotation in said printing press;

an inking system (5 – 17) adapted for use to supply ink to said rotatable forme cylinder (2);

first, second and third ink distribution cylinders (9, 6 and 7) in said inking system;

a plurality of inking rollers and ink application rollers (5s) in said inking system;

a first, front ink path from said first ink distribution cylinder (9) to said rotatable forme cylinder (2) via said second ink distribution cylinder (6);

a second, rear ink path to said rotatable forme cylinder (2), said first ink being before, in a sequence of ink applications to said forme cylinder (2), said second ink path; and

means supporting at least one of said inking rollers (10 and 11) for movement in said inking system between at least first and second positions (arrow) and wherein said second ink path is supplied with ink selectively by direct contact with said movable inking roller (11), said first ink distribution cylinder (9) and said second ink distribution cylinder (6) in accordance with said position of said movable inking roller (11).

With respect to Claim 24, Hummel et al. disclose in Fig. 4 and Column 6 Lines 12 – 25: the printing group of claim 23 wherein said movable inking roller (11) in said second inking path can be selectively brought into contact with said first ink distribution cylinder (9) and said second ink distribution cylinder (6).

With respect to Claim 25, Hummel et al. disclose in Fig. 4 and Column 6 Lines 12 – 25: a printing group of a printing press comprising:

a forme cylinder (2) supported for rotation in said inking press;

an inking system adapted to supply ink to said rotatable forme cylinder (2);

first, second and third ink distribution cylinders (9, 6 and 7) in said inking system;
a plurality of inking rollers and ink application rollers (5s) in said inking system;
means supporting at least one of said inking rollers (10 and 11) for movement in said inking system between at least first and second positions (arrows);

a first, front ink path from said first ink distribution cylinder (9) via said movable inking roller (11) and said second distribution cylinder (6) to said rotatable forme cylinder (2);

a second ink path from said third ink distribution cylinder (7) to said rotatable forme cylinder (2); and

a third, rear ink path from said first ink distribution cylinder (9) via said third ink distribution cylinder (7) to said rotatable forme cylinder (2), said first ink path being before in a sequence of ink applications to said rotatable forme cylinders, said second and third ink paths, said movable inking roller (11) selectively (periodically in line 23) opening and closing (arrow) said first, front ink path while said third path is uninterrupted.

With respect to Claim 26, Hummel et al. disclose in Fig. 4 and Column 6 Lines 12 – 25: the printing group of claim 25 wherein said inking roller (11) which is supported for movement can be selectively (periodically in line 23) brought into contact with and out of contact with said second distribution cylinder (6).

With respect to Claims 27 and 28, Hummel et al. disclose in Fig. 4 and Column 3 Lines 4 – 12: the printing group of claims 23 and 25 further including a dampening system (3) in said printing group and having at least one dampening fluid distribution

cylinder (switchable bridge roller in line 5) and at least one dampening fluid application roller (wetting agent application roller in line 9), said dampening fluid application roller (wetting agent application roller in line 9) being supported for movement (integrated in line 4 and separated in line 9) between selected positions wherein dampening agent can be applied from said dampening fluid application roller (wetting agent application roller in line 9) to one of said ink distribution cylinders (6) and to said forme cylinder (2) and directly to said forme cylinder (2).

With respect to Claim 29, Hummel et al. disclose in Fig. 4 and Column 6 Lines 12 – 25: the printing group of claim 23 further including a second movable inking roller (10) adapted to selectively interrupt and close (arrow) an ink path from said first ink distribution cylinder (9) to said second ink distribution cylinder (7).

With respect to Claim 30, Hummel et al. disclose in Fig. 4, Column 6 Lines 12 – 25 and Column 3 Lines 4 - 12: a printing group of a printing press comprising:

- a forme cylinder (2) supported for rotation in said printing press;

- an inking system (5 – 17) adapted to supply ink to said rotatable forme cylinder (2);

- first, second and third ink distribution cylinders (9, 6, and 7) in said inking system;

- a plurality of inking rollers and ink application rollers (5s) in said inking system;

a dampening system (3) including at least one dampening fluid distribution cylinder (switchable bridge roller) and at least one dampening fluid application roller (wetting agent application roller in line 9);

means supporting at least one of each of said inking rollers (10 and 11) and said ink application rollers (wetting agent application roller) for movement between selected positions in said inking system;

a first, front ink path formed from each first ink distribution cylinder (9) via said second ink distribution cylinder (6) and said third ink distribution cylinder (7) to said forme cylinder (2);

a second, rear ink path;

means supplying dampening agent from said at least one dampening fluid distribution cylinder (switchable bridge roller) and said at least one dampening fluid application roller (wetting agent application roller) to said forme cylinder (2) wherein said second ink distribution cylinder (6) can be selectively assigned to said inking system, to said dampening system and to both said inking system and said dampening system by operationally resetting said inking rollers (10 and 11) and said dampening fluid application roller (wetting agent application roller).

With respect to Claim 31, Hummel et al. disclose in Fig. 4, Column 6 Lines 12 – 25 and Column 3 Lines 4 - 12: the printing group of claim 30 wherein at least one of said inking rollers (10 and 11) is movably supported in said inking system and said dampening fluid application roller (wetting agent application roller) is movably supported

in said dampening system (3) wherein said second ink distribution cylinder (6) is selectively assigned to ink application, to ink and dampening fluid application, and to dampening fluid application.

With respect to Claims 35 - 36, Hummel et al. disclose in Fig. 4 and Column 3 Lines 4 - 12: the printing group of claims 23 and 30 wherein said dampening fluid application roller (wetting agent application roller) is adapted to be brought into contact with said rotatable forme cylinder (2).

With respect to Claims 37 - 39, Hummel et al. disclose in Fig. 4, Column 6 Lines 12 - 25 and Column 3 Lines 4 - 12: the printing group of claims 27 - 28 and 30 wherein said inking system and said dampening system (3) are changeable between a normal operation (as shown in Fig. 4) wherein ink and dampening fluid are applied via said second distribution cylinder (6), a blind plate operation (11 is lifted as upper arrow indicated without contacting with 6) wherein said first and second ink application paths are interrupted and dampening fluid application is accompanied by said dampening system (3) and said second distribution cylinders (6), and a special production wherein dampening is accomplished through said dampening system (3) and said second distribution cylinder (6) and inking is accomplished only via said rear application path (11 - 10 - 7 - 5 - 2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 32 - 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hummel et al. in view of Fischer (Patent No.: US 4290360).

With respect to Claims 32 - 34, Hummel et al. disclose the limitations of Claims 32 -34 as applied above except specifying in detail that the dampening system is a five-roller dampening system.

However, Fischer teaches in Fig. 1, Abstract (lines 1 – 11) and column 3 lines 32 - 36: the damping system is a five-roller dampening system (dampening fluid pick-up roller 5, damping fluid transfer roller 6, movable dampening fluid application roller 10, dampening fluid distribution roller 15 and ink application roller 16).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify Hummel et al's machine by using Fischer's dampening system for permitting selective and additional application of ink/dampening fluid in combined form, or separately, without interfering in the ink distribution system to increase the printing quality and reducing the cost.

This modification/combination meets all the limitations of Claims 32 - 34.

Conclusion

2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Reference of Fischer. (Patent No.: 4520729) discloses an inking system where some of the rollers are physically shifted to define a gap in the ink transfer path.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yuan L. Chen whose telephone number is 571-270-3799. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Taghi Arani can be reached on 571-272-3787. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Taghi T. Arani/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 4193

5/9/2008